

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00894 090943Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8470

S E C R E T TAIPEI 0894

NODIS

STADIS //////////////////////////////////////

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR TW

SUBJECT: LEAK ON TORPEDO CASE

REF: STATE 030937

1. ANY PUBLIC SUGGESTION OR IMPLICATION BY OFFICIAL USG SOURCE THAT GROG OR ITS OFFICIALS KNOWINGLY ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL COVERT EFFORT TO OBTAIN WEAPON WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY LICENSED FOR EXPORT WOULD CAUSE DEEP CONSTERNATION HERE. I WOULD EXPECT GROG TO STOUTLY DENY SUCH ACCUSATION.

2. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT IN DISCUSSION OF SO-CALLED TORPEDO CAPER WITH PREMIER CHIANG WE TOLD HIM THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE AUTHORITATIVE LEVELS OF GROG WERE INVOLVED, AND WE ALSO STATED THAT WE FELT IT POSSIBLE THAT CONSUL HSU AND ADMIRAL CHIU MAY HAVE BEEN MISLED BY MISUNDERSTANDING OR BY A FAULTY APPRECIATION OF THE RELEVANT FACTORS INVOLVED (75 TAIPEI 0950, 75 STATE 041760).

WITH

REGARD TO "EXPULSION" OF ROC EMBASSY OFFICIAL, WE WOULD ALSO REMIND DEPARTMENT THAT NO OFFICIAL PNG ACTION WAS UNDERTAKEN BY USG. RATHER, WE INFORMALLY RPT INFORMALLY MADE IT CLEAR TO PREMIER THAT OUR BEST INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED IF THE GROG RECALLED ADMIRAL CHIU. GROG COULD, IF PRESSED TO WALL, USE THIS OFFICIAL RECORD TO OUR DISADVANTAGE AND EMBARRASSMENT. ALSO, IF WORSE CAME TO WORST, GROG MIGHT FEEL IT WORTH THE RISK TO

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DEMAND THAT USG REVEAL ALL EVIDENCE IT HAD ON CASE, BETTING THAT

FULL REVELATION COULD WELL BE MORE EMBARRASSING TO USG THAN TO GROC.

3. IF PRESS SHOULD ZERO IN ON TORPEDO CASE, AND IF DEPARTMENT ULTIMATELY DECIDES SOME RESPONSE MUST BE MADE, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE MERELY STATE THAT GROC HAD LET US KNOW OVER A YEAR AGO THAT IT DESIRED TO ARM ITS TWO SUBMARINES WITH TORPEDOES, BUT SINCE USG HAD MADE THESE TWO BOATS AVAILABLE TO GROC FOR ASW DEFENSIVE TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY, WE HAD NOT AGREED TO REQUEST. DEPARTMENT COULD ADD, IF NECESSARY, THAT WE WERE ALSO AWARE THAT GROC HAD MADE SOME PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES REGARDING TORPEDO AVAILABILITY THROUGH PRIVATE COMMERCIAL SOURCES, BUT THAT THESE INQUIRIES HAD BEEN ABANDONED WHEN USG ATTITUDE MADE CLEAR.

4. OBVIOUSLY UNLESS WE KNOW MORE PRECISELY HOW MUCH DEPARTMENT FEELS IT MAY BE CONSTRAINED TO TELL THE PRESS, WE CANNOT ASSESS THE DEGREE OF DAMAGE WHICH MAY BE DONE TO US/ROC RELATIONS NOR OFFER ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO MINIMIZE SUCH DAMAGE. IN ANY EVENT, BECAUSE WE HAVE TOLD THE PREMIER THAT WE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE (75 TAIPEI 0668; 75 STATE 026460), WE OWE HIM THE COURTESY OF INFORMING HIM IN ADVANCE SHOULD WE DECIDE TO RESPOND IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE WAY TO PRESS INQUIRIES OR MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE MATTER. WE SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO EXPLAIN FULLY TO PREMIER HOW GOING PUBLIC WILL SERVE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. FAILURE TO GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUR INTENTIONS AND REASONS THEREFOR WILL IMPEL GROC TO ASCRIBE DARK POLITICAL MOTIVES TO OUR REVELATIONS WHICH WILL APPEAR AS EFFORT TO TARNISH GROC IMAGE AND UNDERCUT ITS CURRENT STEPPED-UP EFFORTS TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE.  
POPPL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ESPIONAGE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SECURITY LEAKS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RECALL, TORPEDOES, CAT-C  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEAK ON TORPEDO CASE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PREL, TW, US, (CHIU, HUA-KU)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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